

Subject: Seminar barikht  
 To: daroskies@JTSA.EDU

Tayerer Dovid,  
 Ot iz mayn barikht bi er shteyt un geyt. Der budzhet gefint zikh oykh  
 untn. Vos zogste?  
 Ikh for avek in a vokh arum.  
 Rivke

#### Final Report

The Third International Advanced Seminar in Yiddish Studies:  
 "Yiddish in New York, 1880-2000"  
 New York, June 24 through July 12, 2002

Co-sponsored by Beit Sholem Aleichem, Tel Aviv, the YIVO Institute for  
 Jewish Research, the Jewish Theological Seminary

Report submitted by Rebecca Margolis, administrator, August, 2002.

#### Description of Seminar

The Third International Advanced Seminar in Yiddish Studies took place in  
 New York from June 24 through July 12, 2002, on the campus of the Jewish  
 Theological Seminary. The Seminar was co-sponsored by Beit Sholem  
 Aleichem in Tel Aviv, the Yiddish Department of the Hebrew University in  
 Jerusalem, the Jewish Theological Seminary, and the YIVO Institute for  
 Jewish Research. The seminar was organized by Avrom Nowersztern, David  
 Fishman and David Roskies, and the administrator was Rebecca Margolis.  
 The Seminar was intended for graduate and post-graduate students in the  
 fields of Yiddish and Jewish culture and history. The participants include  
 master's and doctoral candidates in Yiddish literature and culture from  
 the United States, Canada, England, Germany, Hungary, Denmark, Russia,  
 France, and Israel. Travel subsidies and housing was provided for  
 students arriving from outside of the New York area.  
 This was the third International Advanced Seminar in Yiddish Studies, with  
 the first having taken place in Jerusalem in 1999 and the second in New  
 York in 2001.

#### The Curriculum and Program

The theme of this year's seminar was Yiddish in New York, 1880-2000. The  
 lecturers included some of the world's ~~most expert~~ scholars in the field  
 of Yiddish studies:

grosztes +

- \* David Fishman (Jewish Theological Seminary, New York) on the Yiddish  
 Schools in New York
- \* David Roskies (Jewish Theological Seminary, New York) on Sholem Asch's  
 Uncle Moses and East River
- \* Ruth Wisse (Harvard University, Boston) on the poetry of Yankev  
 Glatshteyn
- \* Rakhmiel Peltz (Drexel University, Philadelphia) on the ethnography of  
 Yiddish in New York
- \* Avrom Nowersztern (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) on the bibliography  
 and methodolgy of researching New York as a Yiddish cultural center

\* Eugene Orenstein (McGill University, Montreal) on cultural aspects of the Jewish labor movement.

Evening programs included a screening of Uncle Moses and two Yiddish lectures: Joel Berkowitz (CUNY, Albany) lectured on "The History of the Yiddish Theatre in New York" and Jeffrey Chandler (Rutgers University, ~~New Jersey~~) gave a presentation on "The Image of Bashevis-Singer on the Screen." These events were open to the public. Participants also experienced Yiddish New York firsthand in excursions. A group of participants visited the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research where they were introduced to the library by Brad Sabin Hill. A day-trip was organized to the Workmen's Circle Cemetery and to Jewish Lower East Side. David Roskies with Avrom Nowersztern led the tour of the Cemetery, and Eugene Orenstein led a tour of the Lower East Side which ended with a visit to the Eldridge Street Synagogue. In addition to the lectures, eleven participants presented their own research during four afternoon sessions.

The Seminar concluded with a siyem (graduation ceremony) where a number of participants performed theatrical excerpts. The students thanked their instructors and were presented with gifts by the organizers (Polyn).

A copy of the schedule and student lecture list follows the report.

#### Materials

Seminar instructors submitted reading requirements to the administrator who prepared and mailed reading packets for each of the participants. Packets included a reading list, photocopied materials, and two novels (Onkl Mozes and Ist River) which were ordered from the National Yiddish Book Center. Students were expected to have read the materials by the beginning of the Seminar.

A copy of the reading list follows the report.

#### Application Process

Bilingual Yiddish/English announcements for the Seminar were posted in January on listservs such as Mendele, H-JUDAIC, Yugntruf, and yiddishteachers. A Yiddish announcement was published in the Yiddish Forverts. E-mail invitations were sent to participants and applicants in past Seminars and to students engaged in advanced study of Yiddish. It was also sent to university instructors of Yiddish worldwide who were asked to forward the announcement to potential candidates.

Interested applicants were asked submit a letter, in Yiddish, containing a brief biography and description of their research and interests. The letter was sent via e-mail to the organizers, with a copy to the administrator. The deadline for applications was February 28, 2002. Applicants ~~will be~~ informed of their acceptance, wait-listed status or rejection to the Seminar in early April via e-mail.

Altogether thirty-nine official applications were received, with numerous other inquiries. A majority of the applicants were graduate students whose research involved advanced study of Yiddish. Others included professors, teachers, and journalists with an interest in Yiddish.

#### The Participants

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conducted  
entirely in  
Hebrew

Were

The twenty-seven participants were largely master's or doctoral candidates with Yiddish research topics. There was also a professor of Yiddish Studies at the University of Helsinki and a librarian for the Jewish Division at the New York Public Library. The full list of participants follows the report.

#### Budget

The budget was handled by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. The Seminar remained under-budget. Remaining funds will be diverted to the Uriel Weinreich Program. A copy of the budget follows the report.

Logistics: Housing for Participants, Accommodations, Refreshments, etc. Housing for out-of-town students was provided by the Jewish Theological Seminary through the Abbell Fund. Nineteen participants were housed in the Goldsmith Hall dormitory.

Accommodations for lecture sessions were <sup>m</sup> ~~was~~ provided by the Jewish Theological Seminary through the Abbell Fund. Daytime programs took place in the Mendelson Convocation Center and in P.D.R (Private Dining Room). Evening programs took place in the Wingate Auditorium. The siyem took place in Alperin Lobby. All sessions were recorded on cassette by the <sup>g</sup> Audio-Visual department of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Refreshments were provided during all coffee breaks by FLIX International. *video*

#### Assessment

#### The Future

#### Third International Seminar in Yiddish Studies

New York, June 24-July 12, 2002

Rebecca Margolis, administrator, 917-991-8257; e-mail: rm318@columbia.edu

#### Budget (revised August 16, 2002)

##### Income

1. Beit Sholem Aleichem, Hebrew University, Israel  
\$25,000
2. YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York  
\$10,000
3. Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York -Abbell Fund      In  
kind
4. Remaining funds from 2001  
\$3,274.42

TOTAL:

\$38,274.42

##### Expenses

1. Accounting by YIVO  
\$1,000

2. 38 lectures (1.5 hours) at \$300  
 \$11,400  
 3. Travel expenses for students  
 \$10,800  
 (\$300/domestic flights x 5 = 1,500, \$600; international flights x 13 =  
 7,800;  
 travel for Anna Sorokina = \$1,500  
 4. Flight for Avrom Nowersztern  
 \$1,060.00  
 5. Travel for Rakhmiel Peltz (train, parking, car service)  
 \$664.00  
 6. Accomodations for Students  
 JTS -Abbell Fund  
 7 Accomodations for Avrom Nowersztern  
 \$1,700  
 8 Accomodations for Eugene Orenstein  
 \$161.00  
 9. Salary of administrator (Rebecca Margolis):  
 \$4,500  
 10. Student materials and photocopies, stationery supplies, mailings)  
 JTS -Abbell Fund  
 11. Petty Cash (see item 12, item 15D) -  
 12. Food and drink - FLIX International  
 (\$1,700)  
 13. Festive reception - FLIX International  
 (\$1,200)  
 14. Excursions on July 2  
 a. Transportation  
 \$538.50  
 (Bus rental (Campus Coach @ \$468.50); \$20 tip for driver, \$50 car  
 service)  
 b. Refreshments (purchased by students) \$275.10  
 c. Visit to Eldridge Street Synagogue  
 \$93.00  
 15. Gifts for students (book: Polyn)  
 \$819.99  
  
 TOTAL  
 \$36,276.84